

NOTES ON LIGHT-COLLECTING IN CONNECTICUT

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On the night of June 28, 1948, a collection of beetles was made at light on Codfish Hill Road, two miles east of Bethel, Connecticut. Thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Drucker, at whose home the collection was made, for their courtesy in providing the necessary facilities. The light source was a frosted, "sealed beam," 100-watt lamp, mounted on the side of the house, about nine feet above the ground. A four-foot square of plywood, painted white, was used to reflect the light against the white clapboards of the house. The beam was aimed due east down over a sloping lawn to a swamp of cattails, sedges, and willow, about three acres in extent and one hundred and fifty yards distant from the house. Between the swamp and the lawn is a narrow border of milkweed, raspberry, and sumac, with a scattering of mixed second growth from two to eight feet in height. The altitude at this locality is 450 feet above sea level.

The day had been oppressively hot and humid, with temperatures in the mid-eighties. Light rain fell from about 6 P.M. to shortly before 9 P.M. At 9 o'clock the temperature was 74°F., falling to 72°F. at 1 A.M., with sporadic mist throughout this period. Collecting was done continuously from nine to one. Moths and flies were still appearing in appreciable numbers at one o'clock, although the flight of beetles had died to a mere trickle. The disappearance of beetles occurred rather abruptly between 12:45 and 1:00 A.M.

494 specimens of Coleoptera were taken. These belonged to 18+ families, 76+ genera, and 110 species. Many more specimens might have been taken of some of the dominant forms, such as *Agonoderus*, *Clivina*, *Platynus*, *Tachys*, *Ataenius*, and *Autoserica*. As many specimens as possible were collected of most of the other forms.

At the peak of the flight, between ten and twelve o'clock, it would have been nearly impossible for one person to make a representative general collection. The air was thick with moths, gnats, midges, beetles, mayflies, ichneumonids and tiny wasps of several families, neuroptera, and members of various other orders. Unfortunately, an accurate census of the orders represented was not taken.

The following list is only tentative, and will be corrected and amplified at a later date, when complete identification of the material has been made. It is worth noting that the first six families comprise fully two thirds of the species, and 84% of the individuals.

FAMILIES OF COLEOPTERA TAKEN AT LIGHT
BETHEL, CONN., JUNE 28, 1948

Family	Species	Genera	Individuals
Carabidae	24	(12-?)	235
Scarabaeidae	16	(8-9?)	77
Hydrophilidae	11	(5-6?)	23
Curculionidae	10	(10-?)	33
Lampyridae	7	4	25
Elateridae	6	(3-4?)	20
Staphylinidae	5	(5-?)	8
Chrysomelidae	3	3	13
Haliplidae	3	2	4
Nitidulidae	3	(3-?)	3
Anthicidae	2	1	25
Cerambycidae	2	2	3
Tenebrionidae	2	2	3
Cucujidae	2	2	2
Coccinellidae	1	1	5
Alleculidae	1	1	3
Ostomatidae	1	1	1
Scolytidae	1	1	1
undetermined	10	(?)	10